

FINAL



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
March 1, 2010**

PRESENT: TOM CLOW, CHAIRMAN; RICHARD W. BUTT, VICE CHAIRMAN; DONNA OSBORNE, SELECTMAN; JAMES DONISON, SELECTMAN; KEITH R. LACASSE, SELECTMAN

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi Bolton

RECORDING SECRETARY: Cherry Palmisano

GUESTS: Carl Knapp, Ray Eaton, Frank Campana, Jan Snyder, Chris Hague, Tina Connor, Merry Rice, Forrest Esenwine, Ginger Esenwine, Jon Osborne, Steve Flanders, Chief Begin, Bill Slatunas, Bill Weber

7:00 p.m. Chairman Clow called the meeting to order.

Chairman Clow invited members of the public to call in and ask any questions or concerns they may have regarding the 2010 town warrant. Chairman Clow said that if anyone did not receive a copy of the town mailer they can pick one up at the Town Office Building.

Mr. Bill Weber said that at the Deliberative Session he raised a question regarding some of the calculations made on some articles and wants to make sure his concerns were addressed. Mr. Weber said he was also concerned with the article representing the \$400,000 Block grant and the fact that the article stated “anticipated” funds.

Chairman Clow said that historically this article has always stated “anticipated” because until the funds are in hand from the state they can’t say anything but anticipated. Vice Chairman Butt said they need to assure the voters if there is a shortfall from the state the taxpayers will not have to make up the difference. Vice Chairman Butt said the article does state “not more than” and therefore caps the amount that can be raised by taxation.

Selectman Donison asked when they will receive confirmation from DOT that the town will be receiving the \$261,000. Mr. Carl Knapp said they do have confirmation. Mr. Knapp said the amount of money the town receives is based on the amount of roads the town has. The money has to be used for road repairs and comes into the town quarterly.

Mr. Frank Campana commented on Article 11, which is a request for \$90,000 for EMT firefighters. Mr. Campana said if this article is approved the funds will be taken from the revenue fund. He asked the Board if the Fire Department has indicated how long the \$90,000 will last before those EMTs ask for a raise. Chairman Clow said to some degree would be based on supply and demand, but the amount is capped, and the Selectmen would have to go back to the voters for the amount to be changed or increased. Mr. Campana said it is hard to believe those employees will be willing to work on holidays for the same pay. Chairman Clow said on weekends and holidays there are local EMTs available, unlike during the week.

Mrs. Chris Hague informed the Board that Mrs. Bolton, Town Administrator attended a Seniors and Others Coffee hour held around the first of the month at the Library to discuss the proposed and default budgets. Mrs. Hague said she thought the discussion was beneficial.

Chairman Clow said the differences between the proposed and the default are scattered throughout the budget. Chairman Clow said they have been dealing with a very unrealistic number in the Police Department for

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overtime and the overtime line is now set at something that is more realistic. There are increases in insurance in the proposed and default budgets. Chairman Clow said that custodial services at the Safety Complex is an issue that needs to be dealt with because, with the exception of the secretary at the Fire Department doing two hours of cleaning per week, there is no other cleaning being done. Fuel lines have increased and the Transfer Station budget is up \$16,000.

Mr. Knapp said he has been in charge of the Transfer Station since 2000 and every year he has been able to reduce the budget, this year he could not, due to the increased cost of getting rid of the trash with a substantial increase of \$25,000. Mr. Knapp said they are paying on the amount they take to the burner and in previous years they paid an estimated cost. Mr. Knapp said the less they take to the burner, the less they will pay. Mr. Knapp encourages recycling more as a way to reduce this cost.

Mrs. Hague there is an increase of \$19,000 in the Library budget. She said two years ago they cut their book budget and they are requesting to restore the line to what it was before it was cut. They installed alarm system equipment two years ago, this year the full cost to maintain the alarm system and the monitoring has been added to the budget. Their software contracts went up. Mrs. Hague said there is an increase in the wage line, which will be based on merit increases.

Fire Chief, Ray Eaton said they are required to test their equipment (ladders and hoses). Chief Eaton said they are hoping to have paramedics on during the week, which will reduce the intercept charges.

Mr. Weber said that he feels the budget was responsibly built, is a defensible budget, and the intent was captured. He commended the Selectmen for the great job they did, especially with the economic times the town faces.

Mr. Forest Esenwine had some concerns with the Town Report and the school information being duplicated with the school's annual report. It was discussed the school prints a separate annual report. Mr. Esenwine questioned why the school inventory is listed in the Town Report and not the school's annual report. Mrs. Bolton, Town Administrator, said it is because it is town owned property.

Chairman Clow encouraged the voters to read the explanations included with each article. He wants the voters to read through the Town Mailer carefully, so they are informed, and know the purpose of the article and what the requested funds will be utilized for.

Mr. Knapp mentioned the CIP article and said that years ago their equipment became so dilapidated they had to lease equipment, which was very costly; this article helps to prevent this from happening again. Last year's request was \$200,000, they did the best they could to stretch things out and are asking for \$145,000 this year. Mr. Knapp said that \$10,000 of the request will cut the hauling cost in half for hauling metal and will pay for itself very quickly. Mr. Knapp said when they are purchasing vehicles they look into the future to see the cost savings to the town.

Article 10 – Placing \$30,000 into the Accrual Retirement Capital Reserve Fund because the town carries quite a liability. Chairman Clow said if all employees were to withdraw their accruals they would not have the funds to cover the withdrawals and they need to have the funds available.

Article 11 – Proposal to create a revolving fund to provide the town with EMT coverage during the day. Chairman Clow said that this is such a desperate need in the town. Chairman Clow said it affects the tax rate by having less money going into the vehicle replacement fund. He said there is an immediate need to have these rescue services available during the day, during the week. The Board of Selectmen is strongly behind this article. Selectman Lacasse said they are currently relying on other towns to provide mutual aid and these other towns came forward and asked the Town of Weare to fix this problem.

Article 12 – To accept the contract negotiated with the Police Union. Vice Chairman Butt and Chairman Clow were on the negotiation team and they both feel there are savings as well as expenses associated with the

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contract. To help balance the overtime issues in the budget they restructured how overtime is calculated and this will save the town in upcoming years. Chairman Clow said when there is a vacancy on the department; those shifts need to be covered by other officers, who are being paid overtime. He also said that every time they hire a new officer, they have to pay that salary, and pay overtime to cover the shift. Currently all the full time officer positions are filled and this contract will hopefully benefit the town by maintaining a stable workforce in the Police Department.

Article 13 – Cemetery cy-pres, pays for itself

Article 14 – Fireworks for Patriotic Celebration. Selectman Osborne said last year the fireworks failed by one vote. They would like to hold the Patriotic Celebration on July 16, 17 and 18.

Article 15 – Weare Public Library, purposes are explained.

Article 16 – Expendable trust fund to be used for the 250th Anniversary Celebration.

Article 17 – For the Conservation Commission to employ services of a licensed forester.

Mrs. Hague said there was a discussion at the Deliberative Session regarding distinguishing between tax increases and tax impact and asked Chairman Clow to discuss the difference. Chairman Clow said that all articles do not add up to increases. The tax rate is not set until late October and at that time the Selectmen review the revenue that has come into the town. Chairman Clow said when looking at the total tax impact, not all the articles are new requests, the range has been there before and they do not all represent increases.

Appointment to Cable Committee – Mr. William Slatunas told the Board that he was informed there was a vacancy on the Cable Committee by Mr. Steve Flanders. Mr. Slatunas said he has experience in electronics and computers and feels he can be useful to the town.

Selectman Donison moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to appoint William Slatunas to the Cable Committee. Passed 5-0-0

MANIFESTS

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Osborne seconded, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sign Manifest and order the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to sign checks dated March 4, 2010. Passed 5-0-0

Accounts payable	\$70,540.07	
Gross Payrolls	<u>\$39,882.12</u>	(includes Spec Detail, Taxes and Credit Union)
Total	\$110,422.24	

Vice Chairman Butt said there were two requisitions for Brothers Binding which reflected the Town Report and the Town Mailer. He said the quote for the Town Report was \$2,208 and the invoice is for \$2,428. Vice Chairman Butt said there is also a discrepancy in the invoice for the Town Mailer. Mrs. Bolton, Town Administrator, will contact Brothers Binding for clarification.

The Board discussed subtracting the invoices from Brothers Binding from the Manifest until clarification from the printer has been obtained regarding the Town Report and Town Mailer.

Selectman Osborne questioned an invoice in the Manifest regarding damage to a police vehicle. Chief Begin said the damage was caused by sliding on the ice. Vice Chairman Butt asked why it went to New Boston to be fixed and was not repaired in town. Chief Begin said it was cost effective to go out of town. There is a \$1,000 deductible.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Osborne seconded to amend the Manifest to reflect the subtraction of the invoices for Brothers Binding totaling \$3,754. Passed 3-0-2 Selectman Lacasse and Selectman Donison abstained.

PUBLIC HEARING – To hear public testimony and comment on accepting \$10,171.06 from the State of NH Department of Safety Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Mr. Knapp said this

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represents the balance due to the town from the state's share of the December 2008 ice storm. Mr. Knapp said the town is responsible for 12.5% of the total cost of the cleanup of the ice storm. This money will go into the general fund and become part of the general fund balance. The money has already been spent and this is a reimbursement.

Selectman Donison moved, Selectman Osborne seconded to accept \$10,171.06 from the State of NH Department of Safety Homeland Security and Emergency Management for expenses related to the damage from the December 2008 ice storm. Passed 5-0-0

MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Osborne seconded to approve the minutes of February 8, 2010 as amended. Passed 4-0-1. Selectman Lacasse abstained.

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Butt seconded to approve the minutes of February 16, 2010 as amended. Passed 3-0-2. Selectman Lacasse and Selectman Donison abstained.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Osborne seconded to approve the minutes of February 25, 2010 which included the amendment of a check dated February 25, 2010. Passed 5-0-0

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mrs. Bolton, Town Administrator, informed the Board that Paul Bessey did an analysis of the electrical service at the Safety Complex and determined there to be harmonic current distortion. Mrs. Bolton, Town Administrator, said that Mr. Bessey gave an estimate of \$4,100 for the repair. The Board decided that three bids will be needed. Chairman Clow said the \$4,100 includes the analysis that was already done by Mr. Bessey.

Mrs. Bolton, Town Administrator, said she received an estimate from Chris Hague on the flooring for the Paige Room at the Library. The estimate is over \$8,000 from a company they used in the past. Selectman Lacasse suggested they go with the same flooring material that is used in the rest of the area. Mrs. Bolton, Town Administrator, will contact Mrs. Hague for further information.

It was discussed that the Board will review the personnel policy at their meeting on March 15, 2010.

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Butt seconded to enter into non public session @ 8:45 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (a&c). A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Butt – yes; Selectman Osborne – yes; Selectman Donison – yes; Selectman Lacasse – yes; Chairman Clow – yes. Passed 5-0-0

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to come out of non public session @ 9:42 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Butt – yes; Selectman Osborne – yes; Selectman Donison – yes; Selectman Lacasse – yes; Chairman Clow – yes. Passed 5-0-0

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Osborne seconded to seal and restrict the minutes of the non-public pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3 II. Passed 5-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Cherry Palmisano, Recording Secretary